

Appln No. 09/909,353

Amdt date December 5, 2003

Reply to Office action of September 26, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-10 and 12-15 are pending herein, with claims 2, 11 and 16 being canceled, and claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 12 and 13 are amended. In response to the restriction requirement, claims 1-15 were elected, but claim 16 was not formally canceled. Applicant accordingly formally cancels claim 16 at this time.

The Examiner finally rejected claims 1, 5, 8-10 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bohn, but indicates that objected to claims 2-4, 6, 7, 11-13 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The limitations of objected to and now canceled claim 2 are added to amended independent claim 1. Claims 3 and 4 are amended to depend upon claim 1. Objected to claims 6 and 7 are amended to include the limitations of claim 1 and are each now independent claims. The limitations of objected to and now canceled claim 11 are added to amended independent claim 10. Claims 12 and 13 are amended to depend on claim 10.

While Applicant does not agree with the grounds of rejection, in order to gain allowance of this patent, Applicant makes the above noted amendments. As amended, Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters have been addressed, and Applicant believes that the application should be allowable. Accordingly, Applicant looks forward to receiving the notice of allowance.

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However, if the Examiner has any remaining minor matters, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

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By 

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626/795-9900

DRK/eaj

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